

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 043573

R 261632Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4672

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 19264

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, NO, SV

SUBJECT: NSSM 232: SVALBARD (SPITZBERGEN)

REFS: (A) STATE 258150; (B) BONN 18801

SUMMARY: FRG GOVERNMENT IS CONDUCTING FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTED, GOVERNMENT-WIDE STUDY OF SVALBARD CONTINENTAL SHELF PROBLEM. FONOFF IS NOT, PRESENTLY, IN POSITION TO DESCRIBE MORE THAN TYPES OF CONSIDERATIONS GOING INTO FRG EXAMINATION OF THE MATTER. END SUMMARY.

1. AT EMBOFF MEETING WITH DIRECTOR OF SCANDINAVIAN DESK OF FRG FONOFF (DANNENBRING), LATTER WELCOMED US APPROACH AND RECALLED THAT FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER HAD SUGGESTED THAT, AS RESULT OF INCREASING SCANDINAVIAN CONCERN WITH "NORDCAP PROBLEM," US AND OTHER NATO STATES SHOULD STUDY COMPLEX OF PROBLEMS SURROUNDING SPITZBERGEN. SCANDINAVIAN CONCERN WAS BASED ON SUBSTANTIAL SOVIET MILITARY BUILD-UP ON KOLA PENINSULA AND EXPANSION OF NAVAL BASE AT MURMANSK, INCLUDING RAIL LINE CONSTRUCTION TO THIS AREA AND OTHER LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FACILITIES.

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2. FRG STUDY IS BEING DIRECTED BY FONOFF, WHICH HAS

MADE INQUIRY TO OTHER MINISTRIES FOR DESCRIPTION OF THEIR INTEREST IN SPITZBERGEN PROBLEM. THIS STUDY STILL IN PROGRESS, AND LITTLE COULD BE SAID ABOUT IT AT THIS TIME EXCEPT THAT IT LOOKED AS IF NO OR ONLY MARGINAL FRG ECONOMIC INTERESTS INVOLVED, WITH EXCEPTION OF FISHERIES.

3. SO FAR, FRG HAS TAKEN POSITION THAT NO RESERVATION WAS REQUIRED FOR FRG TO BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN ANY LEGAL RIGHTS IT HAS CONCERNING SHELF DERIVING FROM 1920 SPITZBERGEN TREATY. DANNENBRING MENTIONED THAT NOTICE OF GDR RE-APPLICATION OF 1920 TREATY AS OF AUGUST 1974 WAS CIRCULATED BY FRANCE AS DEPOSITORY IN AUGUST 1975. DANNENBRING SAID NORWAY WAS CLAIMING IT WAS IN WESTERN INTEREST THAT SHELF OF NORWAY PROPER BE CONSIDERED TO EXTEND TO SPITZBERGEN, THEREBY DENYING INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS RE SHELF WHICH WOULD INCLUDE RIGHTS OF USSR AND OTHER EE'S PARTIES TO 1920 TREATY. NORWEGIANS ALSO BELIEVE THAT BARENTS SEA DELINEATION QUESTION WAS BETTER KEPT A BILATERAL ONE TO AVOID INTERNATIONALIZING SAME. FRG WOULD BE EXAMINING WHETHER, PARTICULARLY ON LATTER QUESTION, NORWAY ALONE WAS IN SUFFICIENTLY STRONG POSITION VIS-A-VIS USSR BEST TO REPRESENT ANY WESTERN INTERESTS.

4. FRG HAD CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN FISHING ASPECTS OF PROBLEM IN VIEW OF ITS HISTORICAL FISHING

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 19264

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GROUND NEAR SPITZBERGEN. IT REMAINED UNCLEAR HOW NORWEGIAN PLANS FOR A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WOULD AFFECT FRG FISHING RIGHTS. STUDY OF ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS WAS COMPLICATED BY NORWAY'S DIFFERENT TREATMENT OF SHELF SOUTH OF 62 DEGREES LATITUDE, WHERE OIL EXPLORATION BY FOREIGN COMPANIES IN PROGRESS, AND SHELF NORTH OF THAT LINE WHERE NORWAY WISHES TO RESERVE EXPLOITATION TO ITSELF. DANNENBRING MENTIONED THAT NORWAY WAS ITSELF ECONOMICALLY NOT IN A POSITION TO EXPLOIT OIL NEAR SPITZBERGEN AND IN BARENTS SEA.

5. ASKED WHETHER FRG BELIEVES MATTER SHOULD BE STUDIED BY NATO, DANNENBRING STATED THAT FRG PRESENTLY SAW CURRENT STUDIES AS NATIONAL ONES, EVENTUALLY LEADING TO BILATERAL AND THEREAFTER PERHAPS EC-9 OR NATO COORDINATION. HE STATED FRG REMAINED OPEN ON EVENTUAL BROADER COORDINATION BUT WAS AWARE THAT USSR WOULD NOT BE HAPPY AT NATO INVOLVEMENT, AND THAT NORWAY WOULD BE LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC. EC-9 INTEREST INVOLVED IN VIEW OF FACT THAT NORWAY 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WOULD TOUCH ON EC WATERS AND THEREBY STAND TO AFFECT EC ECONOMIC INTERESTS, INCLUDING ENERGY, MINERALS, AND FISHERIES.

6. DANNENBRING SAID THAT FRG WAS AWARE OF INVOLVEMENT IN THIS QUESTION OF PRECARIOUS SCANDINAVIAN POLITICAL
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BALANCE VIS-A-VIS WEST AND USSR, RANGING FROM FINNISH CAUTION AND SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH USSR THROUGH SWEDISH NEUTRALITY TO NORWEGIAN, DANISH, AND ICELANDIC NATO TIES. IN REACHING SETTLEMENT RECENTLY WITH ICELAND ON FISHERIES, HE SAID FRG HAD BEEN MINDFUL OF IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING CRISIS ON NATO'S NORTH FLANK.

7. DANNENBRING EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER WHEN FRG STUDY CONCLUDED OR FURTHER ALONG, AND STATED FRG MAY WELL WISH TO COMPARE THOUGHTS WITH USG WHEN BOTH POLICY STUDIES COMPLETED.
HILLENBRAND

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